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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 12 DUSHANBE 000397

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SUBJECT: TAJIKISTAN'S 2005-2006 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

REF: STATE 3836

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¶1. The following is Embassy Dushanbe's 2005-2006 Trafficking in Persons Report. Post's lettering system matches reftel's.

OVERVIEW OF TAJIKISTAN'S ACTIVITIES TO ELIMINATE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

¶A. Tajikistan is an origin country for trafficking. International trafficking for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation is a problem. The most common destination countries include the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iran. Reliable statistics do not exist for the number of victims trafficked. The key organizations that deal with trafficking--the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Interior and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)--all have differing numbers. IOM gathered the following statistics from other agencies:

The majority of trafficking victims are female, single, and aged 20 to 26. IOM estimates that at least 420 women were trafficked to the UAE and other Arab countries for sexual exploitation in ¶2005. In 2005, IOM, in cooperation with the Tajik government, repatriated 49 women from the UAE.

Trafficking for labor exploitation is primarily to Russia and the majority are unemployed males. IOM and a Tajik government delegation visited Volgograd, Russia, in 2005 and confirmed that 2000 men have been trafficked to Russia for labor exploitation. The number of victims trafficked for labor exploitation is unclear. Because of the level of poverty in Tajikistan, according to unofficial accounts, up to one million men choose to go to Russia each year for work mostly in construction or agriculture. Most of them are unregistered, often subjected to poor living conditions, and face prejudice and sometimes brutality from their bosses and Russian citizens in general. The majority of the labor migrants choose to go on their own will. Although IOM does not have additional facts on male trafficking victims, it does know that one man was repatriated from UAE in 2005.

IOM confirmed two children have been trafficked: one to the UAE for sexual exploitation and one for labor exploitation within Tajikistan. Child trafficking victims usually were in the care of extended family.

Tajikistan is not known to be a receiving country for trafficking victims; trafficking victims are trafficked out of Tajikistan. However, there was a unique case of one man trafficked from Russia to Tajikistan for slavery purposes.

1B. Through the assistance of international donors, in 2005 the Tajik government has made significant strides towards preventing TIP and establishing strong government institutions to fight TIP in the long term. The Tajik government established an inter-agency high-level commission to combat TIP, increased the number of specialized TIP investigation units throughout the country, provided more training to law enforcement, and in February 2006 opened the Ministry of Interior's (MOI) Intelligence and Analytical Center for Counter-Narcotics and Trafficking In Persons. Political will to combat TIP is strong,

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and President Rahmonov has made public statements condemning trafficking. The government is keen on securing its borders, fighting organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorists, and TIP issues are integrated into these security concerns.

In the MOI's investigations, the majority of traffickers are individuals with private links to the receiving country. MOI believes traffickers may form organized groups, but it did not find evidence of significant trafficking rings in Tajikistan in 2005. The trafficking process usually starts with a recruiter who is a relative, neighbor or colleague of the victim. The typical trafficker is a middle-aged woman. Other facilitators in the process include those who organize logistics, including obtaining false passports and travel documents. Collaborators in the receiving country prepare accommodations and use their connections to force the victim into work.

Traffickers primarily target socially and economically vulnerable people in all parts of Tajikistan. Many are new arrivals to Dushanbe or Khujand from rural areas with little formal education. The Sughd region leads the country in the number of trafficking cases reported. The region's proximity to Kyrgyzstan makes it easy for traffickers to move victims across the border and on to other international points. Approximately 64% of the population lives under the poverty line, and thousands of Tajiks regularly leave the country in search of better income opportunities. Many of these economic migrants, especially from the rural areas, become victims of cross-border trafficking. Victims are typically approached either with offers of lucrative jobs abroad or by a direct offer to work as prostitutes.

1C. The General Prosecutor's office and IOM pointed out that the Trafficking In Persons Law (Article 130) is inadequate. In 2005 no one was convicted under article 130. The poorly-written law's structure and gaps make it difficult to convict a

trafficker. The General Prosecutor's office is working on redrafting the law.

The lack of extradition agreements between Tajikistan and Arab countries, particularly the United Arab Emirates, where the largest percentage of victims are trafficked, prevents Tajikistan from repatriating victims and criminals. The government's inter-agency commission under the Presidential Advisor's Office is working on drafting extradition agreements and establishing greater formal cooperation ties between Tajikistan and the U.A.E.

On the other hand, Tajikistan's close relationship with other Commonwealth of Independent States countries affords it a loose travel regime. Tajik citizens are not required to obtain passports for international travel to countries like Kyrgyzstan, where increasingly more victims are trafficked. Because of tighter Tajik travel restrictions, traffickers are electing to take victims across the border to Kyrgyzstan by road and fly to the U.A.E. and other destinations via Osh.

The government acknowledges that government officials do aid traffickers for money. Some passport officials issue illegal passports so victims can travel outside Central Asia and Russia; employees responsible for issuing birth and marriage

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certificates provide false documents so that traffickers can travel with the victims and victims can travel outside of the country into the U.A.E., where the majority of female victims are trafficked. The UAE prohibits women from Tajikistan under 30 years of age to enter the UAE without a relative or spouse escort. The General Prosecutor's office did not maintain specific records on corrupt bureaucrats involved in TIP, but estimated that the office prosecuted two or three corrupt bureaucrats in 2005.

Tajikistan has received millions of dollars from donor countries and agencies in the fight against trafficking in persons. Most of the aid has gone into anti-TIP efforts including training government officials, equipping investigative units, assisting victims and educating the public. The government has strong political will to combat TIP, but must rely on international donors to provide these services.

¶D. Each ministry or government agency collects data and has one or two people responsible for analyzing the data. There is no central inter-agency government database. The State Migration Service, with the help of IOM, in early 2006 established a database to track trafficking acts. A Data Analysis Center in the State Border Protection Committee at Dushanbe Airport monitors travelers' data in and out of Tajikistan. IOM also collects data from various agencies for its own analysis; however, they feel hindered by unreliable data. The government shares information with the media which publishes TIP-related news items on a regular basis, but to date has not published in-depth analytical reports. In February 2006, with U.S. funding, the Ministry of Interior opened an Intelligence and Analytical Center for Counter-Narcotics and Trafficking In Persons. This center will be a central point for trafficking data collection and analysis. The General Prosecutor's Office noted they are drafting their own TIP analysis.

PREVENTION

¶A. The Tajik government acknowledges that trafficking is a problem in Tajikistan, has strong political will to stop trafficking, and has taken measures to stop the problem. The government has a high-level inter-agency commission to coordinate anti-TIP activities.

¶B. Several ministries and agencies in Tajikistan focus on TIP. Although the government institutions communicate with each

other and NGOs, there has been a lack of true coordination, and no agency has taken the lead in handling anti-TIP efforts. The government's new National Action Plan outlines specific roles for each ministry and agency in handling TIP issues.

A special inter-agency commission of high-level officials from various ministries and President Rahmonov's administration works on coordinating anti-TIP efforts. However, the MOI sees the Commission's role less focused on coordination, but rather on assisting with victim repatriation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes the lead on working with countries like the U.A.E. to try to repatriate victims, establish extradition agreements and cooperation with government agencies. The Ministry of

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Interior is responsible for investigations, and arrests in trafficking cases. Tajikistan's police force and special police TIP units fall under the MOI. The General Prosecutors Office, working with the judicial system, is responsible for prosecuting and sentencing TIP violators. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection takes the lead on labor migration, and under the new National Action Plan, the Ministry of Health will have a larger role in assisting the rehabilitation of victims. Other ministries and agencies working in trafficking problems include the State Border Protection Committee, Parliament's Committee for Women and Family Affairs and Committee on Constitutional Legality, Legislation and Human Rights, and the Ministry of Security.

1C. The government has developed its own awareness campaigns and provides input to IOM's campaigns. It supports local and international NGOs in TIP education. The government occasionally will issue press statements and relies on the media to disseminate its information on TIP. There is no explicit information campaign. During the year, IOM ran TIP awareness campaigns throughout the country. The government, local and international NGOs also raise awareness by educating high school aged students about TIP. Education and awareness campaigns in the country are targeted at potential victims.

1D. Beginning in March of 2005, the government established a 24-hour telephone hotline with trained operators to provide information and counsel callers on TIP. The government has conducted conferences, roundtables and seminars to train trainers how to educate people about the dangers of TIP. Local and international NGOs run programs and training programs to empower women. Specifically, the government has worked with CARE International and USAID to address the failing education system and decreasing school attendance of girls, recognizing that these factors will exacerbate poverty and increase the likelihood of trafficking.

1E. Please note that reftel omitted paragraph E.

1F. Tajik government agencies, particularly the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Labor, cooperate closely with the U.S. Embassy, other diplomatic missions, donor agencies, and NGOs on TIP issues and are forthcoming with information. IOM, the leading anti-TIP agency in Tajikistan, reported an excellent working relationship with the government. In February 2006, IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the inter-agency commission on combating TIP. IOM has a close working relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Security, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and General Prosecutor's Office. Similarly, within the government, ministries and agencies work closely and are open with information.

1G. Each government agency that deals with TIP has at least one or two people responsible for collecting and analyzing the agency's data. Border guards are stationed in Dushanbe's

airports and along border checkpoints. Border guards are

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trained to screen for potential traffickers and victims. A Data Analysis Center in the State Border Protection Committee at Dushanbe Airport monitors travelers' data in and out of Tajikistan. The State Migration Service, with the help of IOM, in early 2006, established a database to track trafficking acts.

In February 2006, the MOI opened a U.S.-funded Intelligence and Analytical Center for Counter-Narcotics and Trafficking In Persons.

1H. Government agencies work closely together on TIP issues on an ad-hoc basis. An inter-agency commission for combating TIP is supposed to coordinate the ministries' TIP activities. Officials from the President's Office sit on the commission along with senior officials from the ministries that deal with TIP. Based on discussions with various agencies, the commission focuses more on extradition and inter-government relations than being a coordination unit or internal center for information. Its coordination role is implicit in that it is housed under the President's Advisors' Office which is in charge of all government ministries and agencies. The government's chief point of contact would be the head of the inter-agency commission's head, the Chief of the Department of Law and Order and Defense, Abdurahmon Azimov. The National Action Plan, which the government is expected to adopt this year, outlines each agency's activities and is a focal point for coordination. The government had set up a separate anti-corruption task force in June 2004 within the General Prosecutor's Office.

1I. Please note that reftel omitted paragraph I.

1J. The government, with heavy IOM input, drafted a National Action Plan in 2005 for combating TIP for 2006-2010. It is currently in the approval process. The various ministries and agencies involved in the National Action Plan have cleared on it, and the Plan is now being sent through the President's Administration for President Rahmonov's signature. The Plan serves as a legally binding document that commits each agency to realizing its goals outlined in the National Action Plan. The Plan coordinates the government's action and clarifies its goals. The Plan will assist government agencies and organizations working with the government to implement projects in line with Tajikistan's anti-TIP policy. Government agencies with a role in the National Action Plan include the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Security, the State Border Protection Committee (Border Guards), the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, and the Ministry of Defense, in cooperation with IOM.

INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS

1A. The government did not introduce or amend TIP-related laws in 2005. Tajikistan does have an article in its criminal code specifically for human trafficking-article 130.1. Tajikistan's trafficking laws do not differentiate between trafficking for sexual exploitation and trafficking for non-sexual purposes such as forced labor. The country does not have a law against slavery. The following is the comprehensive Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Combating Trafficking in Persons adopted August

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2004; traffickers are prosecuted under the articles of the following criminal codes: 122 (Coercion for removal of human organs and tissues for transplantation), 130 (Kidnapping), 130.1 (Human trafficking), 131 (Illegal imprisonment), 132 (Recruitment of people for exploitation), 134 (Coercion), 138 (Rape), 139 (Sexual abuse), 140 (Compulsion for sexual activities), 141 (Sexual intercourse or other sexual activities

with persons under 16), 142 (Lecherous actions), 149 (Incorrect limitation of migration, freedom of choosing place of residence, emigration and returning of a citizen), 167 (Trafficking minors), 171 (Substitution of child), 172 (Illegal adoption), 238 (Involvement in prostitution), 239 (Establishment or keeping of dens, procuring or pimping), 335 (Illegal crossing of state border), 336 (Violation of state border regulations), 339 (Theft or damaging documents, stamps, seals), 340 (Forgery, manufacturing or sale of forged documents, state decorations, stamps, seals, letterheads), 401 (Recruitment).

¶B. The penalty for traffickers of people for sexual exploitation and labor exploitation both range from two to 12 years of imprisonment and/or the confiscation of property.

¶C. The penalty for rape ranges from 12 to 20 years imprisonment. Overall, the prison term starts off at a longer time period and the maximum penalty is lengthier than the two to 12 years of imprisonment for sex trafficking. The ultimate penalty for rape of a minor is execution, although the government observes an EU-requested moratorium on capital punishment.

¶D. Prostitution and running brothels are illegal in Tajikistan according to criminal codes 238 (Involvement in prostitution) and 239 (Establishment or keeping of dens, procuring or pimping). The laws are enforced and are often used to punish traffickers.

¶E. The General Prosecutor's office and IOM pointed out that the anti-TIP law (article 130.1 on human trafficking) adopted in 2004 is inadequate. In 2005 no one was convicted under the law.

The poorly written law's structure and gaps make it difficult to convict a trafficker under that specific law. However, traffickers are convicted with other crimes mentioned in 23 A. Plea bargains are not permitted and fines are not a part of the punishment. The General Prosecutor's office reported that the average sentencing for trafficking-related crimes ranges from five to 12 years. Convicted traffickers are imprisoned and serve their terms; however, each case is reviewed periodically, and some may be released after an assessment of their behavior and activities while in prison.

The following are the latest statistics from the General Prosecutor's office as of February 24, 2006. Please note that government statistics are known to be inconsistent. Statistics from the General Prosecutor's office, IOM and media reports differ.

In 2005, 81 trafficking cases were opened for investigation. Of these cases, 72 were for sexual exploitation, and 9 were for the

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exploitation of minors.

The General Prosecutor's office prosecuted 57 of the cases opened for investigation, involving 86 victims. At the beginning of 2006, 17 of those cases are still in the judicial process. In 2005, out of the 57 cases that went to court, 28 cases resulted in convictions.

The Tajik government named 18 people on a wanted list for trafficking. Those 18 are known to be residing in the U.A.E. The government also knows of at least 16 victims who remain in the U.A.E.

¶F. The government has not identified any travel agencies, marriage brokers or other commercial entities serve as a front for trafficking. Most traffickers are individuals with local and international partners. However, the Ministry of Interior does not characterize them as organized crime rings or

established networks. The typical trafficker is a middle-aged woman with contacts in government agencies that illegally issue her false documents, and a partner in the receiving country who picks up the victim at the airport and arranges a job for the victim.

Media reports quote the Sughd region's Prosecutor linking trafficking rings to financing terrorist organizations; however, Tajikistan's General Prosecutor's office and the Ministry of Interior deny established links between traffickers and terrorist organizations. The General Prosecutor's office's data shows that traffickers funnel revenue back into private businesses, to purchase property or construct homes. The government finds it difficult to track the money flow because traffickers do not use the banking system. Sometimes trafficking payments are in the form of commodities instead of cash.

¶G. The General Prosecutor's office and the Ministry of Interior both actively investigate trafficking cases. The Ministry of Interior occasionally uses undercover agents, but did not report using electronic surveillance. The General Prosecutor's office does not provide immunity for suspects that cooperate with the government.

¶H. The government as well as local NGOs train law enforcement agents on recognizing and investigating TIP cases. The Ministry of Interior's Law Enforcement Academy teaches a course on combating TIP, and law enforcement agents have a practical textbook on recognizing and investigating TIP. The Deputy Prosecutor General remarked that the office's staff needed more training on how to properly prosecute TIP cases. The Ministry of Interior has set up special regional units to handle TIP cases. Each unit's officers are especially trained to investigate TIP cases and devote their time to handling only TIP issues.

¶I. The General Prosecutor's office said it works closely with foreign governments on investigation and prosecution process. However, the Ministry of Interior, as a law enforcement agency,

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does not cooperate with governments abroad. Neither agency was able to provide information on the number of cooperative international investigations. Both agencies noted that not all countries cooperated fully with Tajikistan on TIP issues. Tajikistan does not cooperate with Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan on anti-TIP efforts. Tajikistan has a good working relationship with Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Although the majority of the victims are trafficked to Arab countries, the government admits it does not have a strong relationship with authorities in countries like the U.A.E. One prime example is that when delegates from Tajikistan traveled to the U.A.E. in an attempt to repatriate victims, the delegates found local authorities to be uncooperative. It took a letter from President Rahmonov to his counterpart in the U.A.E. to repatriate the victims. The inter-agency commission in Tajikistan is working to strengthen relations with the Arab countries on anti-TIP matters.

¶J. The General Prosecutor's office reported that no countries have made extradition requests of the Tajik government. Tajikistan is a party to the 1993 Minsk Convention and operates under the convention's guidelines. Tajikistan does not have a specific law prohibiting it from extraditing its own nationals. It does not plan to establish a law and chooses to operate under the guidance of the Minsk Convention. The General Prosecutor's office said that if an extradition request were granted and the two countries' Ministries of Justice reached an agreement, it would comply as per the Minsk Convention.

The government of Tajikistan does not have extradition agreements, even on a bilateral level, with the governments of

the Arab states, particularly the U.A.E. Tajikistan's inter-agency commission on anti-TIP is working on drafting a bilateral agreement to facilitate extradition of criminals and repatriation of victims because the U.A.E. is the largest receiving country for Tajikistan's trafficking victims.

¶K. Some government officials responsible for issuing passports and marriage and birth certificates are known for providing traffickers with false documentation to facilitate traveling. This occurs on a bureaucratic level. No senior officials have been identified with TIP related corruption. Overall, the government is keen on stopping trafficking, and there exists no evidence of widespread institutionalized government involvement in TIP.

¶L. The government is aware of corrupt officials and does prosecute them. The General Prosecutor's Office could not provide specific statistics, but did say that two or three officials were prosecuted and convicted in 2005 for issuing false documents for TIP cases.

¶M. Tajikistan does not have an identified child sex tourism problem either as a source or destination country. Although children have been trafficked, the majority of sex trafficking cases involve women. Child sexual abuse laws do have extraterritorial coverage.

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¶N. Tajikistan ratified ILO Convention 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor June 8, 2005.

Tajikistan has acceded to ILO Convention 29 and 105 on forced or compulsory labor November 26, 1993 and September 23, 1999 respectively.

Tajikistan acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography August 5, 2002.

Tajikistan acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime July 8, 2002.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS:

¶A. In theory, the TIP law protects victims but in practice, a significant lack of resources hinders the government's ability to provide protection. (Relevant legislation includes: Article 13 "Specialized institutions rendering support and assistance to victims of human trafficking", Article 14 "Centers for support and assistance to victims of human trafficking", Article 16 "Social rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking", Article 17 "Measures on protection of victims of human trafficking", Article 18 "Obligations of diplomatic representations and consular offices of the Republic of Tajikistan on rendering assistance to and protection of victims of human trafficking", Article 20 "State guarantees to victims of human trafficking.")

The government does not deport victims; they are free to travel within Tajikistan and outside the country if they choose. The government relies on IOM to assist victims after they return to Tajikistan. IOM has two rented two apartments to serve as victim shelters. Working with the Tajik government and aided with funding from the United States, IOM is constructing a shelter for victims. Under the soon-to-be implemented National Action Plan, the Ministry of Health will provide psychological and medical services to victims and will work with IOM's future shelter. Currently, there are no health-care facilities

reserved for victims.

1B. The government does not provide financial support to local or domestic NGOs; Tajikistan relies on foreign NGOs to provide the country services and financial assistance. Although it cannot provide monetary support, the government works closely with NGOs and IOM to assist victims. Government officials are open and receptive to NGOs' ideas and advice on anti-TIP efforts. The government worked closely with IOM to identify and procure land for a victims' shelter. Under the future National Action Plan, the Ministry of Health will work with NGOs and IOM to provide victims rehabilitation services.

1C. The government relies on NGOs such as IOM to take care of victims after their repatriation and during the rehabilitation process. The Ministry of Interior reported that it does provide victims security if requested and deemed necessary, especially

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while they are trial witnesses. The General Prosecutor's office keeps their confidentiality. IOM, in working with the government, has set up a shelter for victims and plans to build more. The future National Action Plan tasks the Ministry of Health with providing medical and psychological treatment for victims.

1D. Victims are not treated as criminals and their rights are respected. The General Prosecutor's office did not pursue criminal charges against TIP victims or issue fines. Victims are not detained, jailed or deported. They may reside wherever they choose.

1E. The government does encourage victims to assist in the investigation process and provide testimony during trials. It ensures the victim's confidentiality and offers closed trials. Victims are permitted to obtain other employment or leave the country after testifying if they choose, however there is no restitution program. If victims move, they leave their city or region, but usually not the country. Victims may file civil suits and seek other legal of financial redress against the traffickers.

1F. The government provides victims and witnesses with security and confidentiality, however even the government admits the protection is minimal. The government refers victims to IOM if they require shelter. IOM has temporarily rented two apartments to serve as shelters for victims. The government as of now relies on IOM to assist in victim rehabilitation, but under the new National Action Plan which is set to be approved this year, the government through the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection will take on greater responsibilities. Currently, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection places child victims in orphanages for care.

1G. The government does investigate trafficking in children. Law enforcement agents are not given specialized training in trafficking in children. However, the government established an anti-Tip investigation unit specifically to combat trafficking in children. Trafficked children are placed into orphanages upon their repatriation or return to Tajikistan.

There is no special training for staff in Tajikistan's embassies and consulates abroad on TIP matters. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in conjunction with the inter-agency on combating TIP, occasionally makes trips to the U.A.E. and other countries in an attempt to repatriate victims or resolve TIP issues.

1H. The government relies on IOM to assist victims it

repatriates. IOM places victims in a shelter. IOM has set up two shelters temporarily and is working with the government through funding from the United States to build a permanent structure to serve as a shelter. IOM envisions the shelter will have trained staff to assist with the psychological and medical needs of the victims. Staff will also assist in rehabilitating victims to re-enter society. The Ministry of Health and other

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government agencies will work closely with IOM and the shelter.

¶1. The federal and local government cooperate closely with international organizations and NGOs on anti-TIP efforts. The leading NGO on TIP in Tajikistan is IOM. Many other international organizations work on TIP as well, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency. Their services include training programs and seminars for officials and journalists to combat TIP, as well as training programs targeted at potential victims. They produce awareness and education campaigns on television and radio media. These organizations also deliver lectures, hold conferences, and publish articles, hold competitions, produce theater shows, and employ other creative ideas to raise awareness.

¶2. HEROES

Many international organizations, local NGOs and government agencies work hard to fight trafficking in Tajikistan, including several dedicated individuals: but this year, Post would like to nominate an organization that has done an excellent job combating TIP.

International Organization for Migration's Local Staff

Thanks to United States assistance, IOM has been a driving force within Tajikistan towards combating TIP by training government officials, raising awareness among the population and providing victims assistance. With U.S. funding, IOM established the first shelters in Tajikistan for trafficking victims. The staff has drafted the National Action Plan for 2006-2010 and has worked closely with the government to implement TIP programming.

In February 2006, IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the inter-ministerial commission on countering TIP. In addition, they advise on trafficking laws, including pointing out its discrepancies, leading the government to implement changes. Officials from several government agencies respect IOM staff and recognize them as the leading anti-TIP organization. Officials often praise IOM's local staff for their initiatives in all spheres of anti-TIP efforts, their responsiveness to Tajikistan's needs, and their media resourcefulness.

¶3. BEST PRACTICES

Tajikistan has set up special anti-TIP units in regions throughout the country. The anti-TIP units are law enforcement bodies, groups of two to four police investigators, including women investigators, who are specially trained to look out for possible trafficking crimes and investigate them. The anti-TIP unit models have been successful, and the government wants to expand them to all regions and even the district and local levels. An increased number of anti-TIP units has led to a significant number of TIP cases reported and investigated. In particular, the Sughd region's anti-TIP unit, which consists of four officers, has received awards and commendations from the General Prosecutor for its aggressive investigation.

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¶4. U.S. Embassy Dushanbe's point of contact on trafficking in

persons is:

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